

# THE DIAL

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# THE DIAL

VOL. XI. MAY, 1890. No. 121.

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## THE DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY.\*

A comparison, in respect of creative literary power, is sometimes drawn—very much to our disadvantage—between the English-speaking people of to-day and the mediæval Florentines, the Greeks, or the Elizabethans. To our further disparagement, it is hinted that strict candor would compel the average modern to admit a distaste for the form in which the master-work of literature has chiefly sought expression—a lurking sympathy with Professor Huxley's contempt for “sensual caterwauling.”

In our defence, we may urge that inferiority in one direction often implies superiority in another; and that, within our own province, neither the Florentines, the Greeks, nor the Elizabethans, could have coped with us. At no former time have conditions been so favorable to literary ventures calling especially for ripe scholarship, unclouded critical vision, and a wide division of scholarly labor; and when these qualities are combined in a modern work, we justly expect it to be of the first rank.

\* DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY. Edited by Leslie Stephen. In about 50 vols. Vols. I.-XXI., Abb-Glo. New York: Macmillan & Co.

It would be difficult to name a venture more strictly within the scope of the period, or more thoroughly illustrative of its literary bent, than the “Dictionary of National Biography,” edited by Leslie Stephen, the first twenty-one volumes of which are before us. This great work will comprise fifty volumes when completed, and we are promised the remainder at the astonishingly rapid rate, quality considered, of one every three months.

The main essentials of a good biographical dictionary are easily stated. First, as to compactness, a work necessarily so large should not ask an inch more of the purchaser's shelf-room, or a shilling more of his money, than is strictly needed for the fulfillment of its purpose. In his selection of names, in so far as we can judge, the editor has been sufficiently chary,—though no name, within proposed limits, likely to interest any considerable section of the public, seems to have been omitted. As implied in the title, the sketches have been confined to men born or acclimatized in Great Britain and Ireland; and it will possibly be urged on this side the Atlantic that Americans should have been included. The Dictionary, however, is *National* in scope, and it is hardly our province to prescribe to publishers the range of their ventures,—as to quality of work we may presume to judge. It is questionable, moreover, whether so enormous an addition to a work unavoidably large would be, on the whole, a gain. For one would scarcely care to risk insolvency, even to secure an all-comprehensive biographical dictionary. In respect of names selected, there seems to be no reasonable ground of complaint.

As to proportion of treatment, certain faults, doubtless inevitable at the outset, that mar the first volume, disappear in the succeeding ones. To keep each “life” strictly within bounds implies self-denial on the part of contributors, and tact on the part of the editor; and that these qualities have been exerted by Mr. Stephen and his co-laborers is attested by the remarkable evenness and proportion—considering the number of hands employed—of their work as a whole.

In regard to manner of treatment, there is more to be said. One does not go to a biographical dictionary for dissertation, history, or the personal views or literary graces of the

contributors. *Facts* are what we require,—authentic facts illustrative of the characters under review. To what extent criticism is admissible has been questioned. We may say that, in general, one does not go to a biographical dictionary for criticism—certainly not in the case of the greatest names. In any event, the judgments offered should be thoroughly well founded. To admit mere matter of opinion is to endanger the permanent value of a work that should be first and always a medium of information.

In the opening volume, some of the articles are too long, and contain matter which it is unfair to ask purchasers of a work of this nature to pay for. For instance, were all the "lives" on the scale of Canon Stephens's disquisition (that is the word for it) on Saint Anselm, the proposed fifty volumes must certainly mean a hundred and fifty. Early defects, as already stated, disappear as the work progresses; and one cannot but wonder at the tact shown by Mr. Stephen and his aids in keeping in hand such a host of contributors,—and we may note here that these contributors collectively represent English scholarship at its best. Many of the articles in the later volumes are models of their class. Amid so much excellence, it is, perhaps, unfair to specify; but we may say that in the papers contributed by Joseph Knight, Cosmo Monkhouse, and by the editor himself, the most hypercritical reader will scarcely suggest any improvements. Mr. Stephen's "Byron," for example, is precisely what it should be, presenting the maximum of fact with the minimum of criticism, and judiciously avoiding the usual "Byronic" debates—wherein, to quote Sancho Panza, "there is a great deal to be said on both sides." Mr. Monkhouse's treatment of the painters is also admirable. His paper on Constable is specially good, giving in a few words the best characterization of that painter and his art that we remember to have seen.

A biographical dictionary is perhaps chiefly useful for the information it gives of the lesser notabilities—people whose records would, without it, be difficult of access; and a rare collection of such worthies has Mr. Stephen brought to light. To have been a preacher, a poet, a statesman, a hangman, a murderer, a pick-pocket, of any sort of distinction, entitles one to a niche in his pantheon. The ways in which "the bubble reputation" may be won are encouragingly numerous. That the name of John Astley, painter, is inscribed on the roll of fame

is due to a financial crisis which compelled him "to patch the back of his waistcoat with a canvas of his own painting representing a magnificent waterfall"—a sorry fate for a projected masterpiece. One would not care a button for John Ash, lexicographer, were he not the author of the most stupendous blunder on record. Johnson, in defining "curmudgeon," derived it from *cœur méchant*—"on the authority of an unknown correspondent"—whereupon the ingenious Ash gave it as from "*cœur*, unknown, and *méchant*, correspondent." Surrounded by a respectable concourse of poets and theologians, is Mrs. Elizabeth Brownrigg, whose humor it was to tie up her apprentice, Mary Clifford, "to a hook fixed in one of the beams in the kitchen," and to flog her until the victim's death put an end to the pleasantry. It is gratifying to learn that Mrs. Brownrigg's "emotional insanity" did not deprive her of her reward. Abiezer Coppe was the most radical of non-conformists. Such was his contempt for the gauds and vestments of ritualism that he was in the habit of preaching stark naked,—until the minions of an established church locked him up. Mr. Coppe's doctrine was as impressive as his practice. "It's meat and drink to an angel," he held, "to swear a full-mouthed oath." George Barrington's versatility was such that he might well be called the Admirable Barrington. He was successful at once as a poet and as a pick-pocket. No volume of familiar quotations would be complete without his couplet,—

"True patriots we, for be it understood,  
We left our country for our country's good."

On the day that Barrington was transported, his relative, Dr. Shute Barrington, was advanced to the bishopric of Durham—a fact which gave rise to the epigram,—

"Two namesakes of late, in a different way,  
With spirit and zeal did bestir 'em;  
The one was transported to Botany Bay,  
The other translated to Durham."

A concrete example is often the best definition. Were one asked, for instance, to define "humorist"—in the old sense—it would be well to refer the questioner to the account of Thomas Day, author of "Sanford and Merton,"—a humorist of the first water. The story of his matrimonial ventures is very amusing. His first proposal was made, in verse, to a Shaftesbury lady, whom he invited to dwell "unnoticed" with him "in some sequestered grove." The offer was declined—in prose. Day then determined to secure a wife upon philosophical principles. With a view of procuring raw

material for experiment, he chose from the Shrewsbury orphan asylum two girls—one a blonde of twelve, whom he named "Sabrina Sidney," the other a brunette, called "Lucretia." These neophytes he proposed to submit to a course of training of Spartan severity. Unhappily, "Sabrina" proved "invincibly stupid," and was placed with a milliner, "where she did well, and finally married a linen-drapeer." Day then took a house on Stow Hill and devoted himself to the training of "Lucretia." But as "she screamed when he fired pistols (only loaded with imaginary ball) at her petticoats, and started when he dropped melted sealing-wax on her arms, he judged her to fall below the right standard of stoicism." He finally married a Miss Esther Milnes, and gave further and most convincing proof of his eccentricity by insisting that "her fortune be placed beyond his control, that she might retreat from the experiment if it proved too painful." To Pierce Egan, author of "Life in London," "Boxiana," etc., was paid as sincere a compliment as was ever earned by the pen. It is related that Thurtell the murderer, just before his execution, said wistfully to his warders: "It is perhaps wrong for one in my situation, but I own I should like to read Pierce Egan's account of the great fight yesterday"—meaning the championship "battle" between Spring and Langan. One can imagine the poor wretch in Newgate, the fetters on his limbs, the death-watch round him, the chill London fog stealing in through the corridors, the awakening stir of preparation—sounds to which the "knocking at the gate" in "Macbeth" were cheerful—begging for a last hour with his favorite author. Compared to this, Johnson's tribute to Burton is the damnation of faint praise.

But it is not as a chronicle of crime and eccentricity that we are to regard the work under review. Primarily, it is the object of the "Dictionary of National Biography" to set forth in unglossed narrative whatever is known or can be learned of Englishmen who have measurably contributed toward England's greatness—whether it be in science, art, literature, or politics. It should be noted that—for the convenience of readers desiring specially minute information—a full list of references is appended to each "life." Of the value of such a record to Americans one scarcely need speak; and we take it for granted that no reference library in this country, of the least pretension to completeness, will be without it.

Moreover, aside from its mere utility, the work is a veritable mine of entertainment; and owners of private libraries who are judicious enough to add it to their collections will find it quite as well adapted to the hour of recreation as to that of study. To the editor and publishers of the "Dictionary" is due the credit of having produced not only the best biographical dictionary in existence, but the most serviceable and impressive literary work of the present generation.

EDWARD GILPIN JOHNSON.

#### RECENT BOOKS ON EVOLUTION.\*

The history of modern thought shows two landmarks far transcending all others in importance. One of these dates back to 1543, through the adoption of the Copernican system of astronomy; the other belongs to our own generation, and springs from the acceptance of the doctrine of Evolution. These are the great epochs in the realm of ideas, because they are the points at which men have been forced to revise their theories of the universe; and every alteration in the theory of nature, every fresh hypothesis regarding the origin of the world, must of necessity cause a revision of current systems of theology, metaphysics, and morals. Great was the revolution in human thought three centuries ago when it could no longer be believed that the earth was the central spot of the universe, and it shook the whole fabric of Christian theology to its foundation; but it was not greater than that we have seen, and are seeing, in our own day and generation, following upon our new cosmology. Nor is there any more reason for supposing that our new theory of the relation of things in time—Evolution—will ever be supplanted, than there is for supposing a similar displacing of the older theory of the relation of things in space. As science, Evolution has passed beyond the realm of controversy, and every scientific writer, in whatever department, assumes it as granted. As Professor Le Conte has well said,—“We might as well talk of gravitationist as of evolutionist.”

\* AN EPITOME OF THE SYNTHETIC PHILOSOPHY. By F. Howard Collins. With a Preface by Herbert Spencer. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

EVOLUTION: Popular Lectures and Discussions before the Brooklyn Ethical Association. Boston: James H. West.

THE CONTINUOUS CREATION. By Myron Adams. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF EVOLUTION. By James McCosh, D.D., LL.D., Litt. D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

In the popular mind, however, there is still considerable vagueness in respect to the exact scope and meaning of the new word. What is this all-potent process which presumes to account not only for the world and man, but for all that man has become and has done—customs, habits, beliefs, tools, literature, arts, morals, religion?

The series of books called "The Synthetic Philosophy," in which Herbert Spencer unfolds the general concept of a single and all-pervading, natural process,—tracing it out through all its modes of action, in sun and star, plant, animal, and humanity, and giving to it the name of Evolution,—are too voluminous, too technical, too difficult, for the average reader. Although Spencer's literary style is admirably clear and direct, not every one will be sufficiently in earnest to follow him through the successive chapters of demonstration in order to get at his completed definition:

"Evolution is an integration of matter and concomitant dissipation of motion; during which the matter passes from an indefinite incoherent homogeneity to a definite coherent heterogeneity; and during which the retained motion undergoes a parallel transformation."

Still fewer are those who will master the eight volumes in which the law is shown to apply to organic life, to mind and habit, to societies, politics, morals, religion. The word Evolution being in every mouth, the demand of the hour is for something more simple, more available, better suited to the conditions under which most people must do their reading and gain their knowledge.

Mr. Howard Collins's "Epitome of the Synthetic Philosophy" might, by its title, be supposed to be a work of such purpose. Mr. Collins has been index-maker of Spencer's works, and for five years has been engaged in the task of bringing into the compass of this single volume the substance of Spencer's eight volumes. But let not our average reader be misled into the assumption that this is the book for him. It is, in fact, very much harder reading than the original authority. Its aim is not simplification but condensation, and the basis of the condensation is a mathematical one, retaining all the original divisions by chapters and paragraphs, but reducing each to one-tenth of its original proportions. The five thousand and more Spencer pages are thus represented by one book of a little over five hundred pages. This compression has been obtained by the sacrifice of all illustration and nearly all elucidation, each proposition being stated in its

most abstract form. The chief value of the work, therefore, is for students who have already studied the subject largely. To such it will prove a convenient reference book for compact statement of conclusions with which they are already familiar; or, perchance, as an assistance to the conception of the general proportions of the parts to the whole, as a system. Also, the specialist in any department of science will find it serviceable as a sort of amplified index of the original, indicating the places where fuller treatment of his topic may be found. The work seems well done for these uses; but let all beginners beware of it. To one unacquainted with the subject, we can imagine nothing more forbidding than its array of highly abstract and unilluminated propositions, and it would inevitably create a distaste for what is in truth a greatly fascinating theme.

A collection of lectures by various persons, with the discussions following their delivery, has been published by the Brooklyn Ethical Association, with the avowed purpose "of popularizing correct views of the Evolution philosophy." The lectures are fifteen in number, and, beside technical treatment of each department of the subject, include introductory biographical sketches of Herbert Spencer and Charles Darwin, and three concluding topics of somewhat wider scope, dealing with the relation of Evolution to different phases of life and thought. The book has the inevitable deficiencies of any such collection. While it is evident that the effort has been made to assign each subject to a writer with some equipment for his task, there is, nevertheless, a great inequality in the execution of the work. Some are admirable monographs—as, for example, the two by Mr. Chadwick, "Charles Darwin" and "Evolution as Related to Religious Thought"; also, M. J. Savage's "The Effects of Evolution on the Coming Civilization." Others are insignificant, as the opening paper on "Herbert Spencer"; or painfully feeble and inadequate, as the one on "The Philosophy of Evolution." The same diversity in value occurs in the strictly scientific topics. Specialists of more than local reputation contribute some of these,—Garrett P. Serviss writing of "Solar and Planetary Evolution," Lewis G. Janes of "Evolution of the Earth," E. D. Cope of "The Descent of Man." But as a rule there is less directness and simplicity than there should be. We know the difficulties; but the success of Edward Clodd in his "Story of Creation," and



of H. M. Simmons in "The Unending Genesis," proves that "popular" writing is not impossible even on these subjects.

A better book than either of the foregoing, indeed one of the best yet issued for the purpose we are considering,—namely, for presenting in simple and attractive form the leading features of Evolution,—is the work of Myron Adams on "The Continuous Creation." His aim is to make "an application of the Evolutionary Philosophy to the Christian Religion," thus taking hold of the subject at the point of its greatest interest for most people. He does not undertake to prove the doctrine of Evolution, to examine in detail the specific grounds of its adoption by the scientific world, assuming as sufficient authority the testimony of actual investigators that it works as far as it is followed. For definition, he goes to Professor Le Conte,—and wisely, since it is hard to conceive a better:—Evolution is (1) continuous progressive change, (2) according to certain laws, (3) by means of resident forces. Three opening chapters are devoted to the scientific application of this definition; but Mr. Adams well knows that it is not on this ground that the battle for Evolution is to be fought. So long as the scientific aspects are alone in question, the scientists may have their way without objections; but thoughtful persons see that the matter cannot stop there: granted so much, a great modification of religious philosophy must follow, a profound revolution in all the supreme subjects of human interest must impend. In Mr. Adams's own words,—

"There is a feeling that Evolution is dangerous. The exaggeration of that feeling is that evolutionary philosophy comes as a whirlwind to destroy religion; on the contrary, it comes to restore and revive it."

To prove and enforce this statement, in the various lines of religious thought, is the work of the remaining chapters, bearing such titles as, "The Bible a Record of Religion's Gradual Growth," "The Problem of Evil," "The Consummation of Evolution is Immortality," "Resident Forces and the Divine Personality," "Prayer," "Miracles and Scientific Thought," "Faith and Intuition." These subjects are all admirably worked out, and though the book is less scholarly than Le Conte's "Evolution as Related to Religious Thought," and less brilliant than Powell's "Our Heredity from God," it is, on the whole, probably the most successful attempt yet made to enlighten the uninformed concerning the scope and bearings of the Evolution philosophy.

President McCosh's "Religious Aspect of Evolution" is a small book of 120 pages, announcing itself as an "enlarged and improved edition." But it needs a far more fundamental enlargement to bring it up to present requirements of thought. It belongs to that by-gone period of the discussion when it was considered the duty of the hour to reconcile Genesis and geology, to torture impossible meanings out of Moses' use of the word "day," to set definite boundaries to religion "natural" and religion "revealed." President McCosh has not come sufficiently abreast with his subject to see that all religion, however derived, is a manifestation of the life of God in the life of man. Revelation is not merely a fleeting gleam of divine inspiration, at a remote period, upon a small portion of the race, but it is the unveiling of the mind of man to see the sunrise of God's glory in the world. It is the record, not so much of God's revealing himself to man, as of man's development into a consciousness of God. And Revelation, in this sense, is almost synonymous with Evolution.

ANNA B. McMAHAN.

#### THE PRIMITIVE FAMILY.\*

Since the publication, nearly thirty years ago, of Sir Henry Maine's "Ancient Law," a battle of books and magazine articles has raged fiercely round the "patriarchal theory" of society as therein set forth. Rashly accepted by many students of philology and jurisprudence as a general working hypothesis, this theory was strenuously attacked by anthropologists as too limited in its inductions, both in time and place, and as an hypothesis which ignored the larger circle of facts. Conspicuous among its assailants was the ingenious and imaginative McLennan, whose destructive criticism, in his "Patriarchal Theory," while expressing some of the irritability of a dying man, yet shows a vigor and a trenchancy due to a scientific method of attack. Herbert Spencer had already, in his calmer and more careful manner, shown the too narrow basis of the theory as a working hypothesis of society in what is now his chapter on "The Family" in his "Principles of Sociology." It is probably safe to say

\* THE PRIMITIVE FAMILY IN ITS ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT. By C. N. Starcke, Ph.D. of the University of Copenhagen. "International Scientific Series," Vol. LXV. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARRIAGE AND KINSHIP. By C. Staniland Wake. London: George Redway.

that no prominent thinker in the sphere of Sociology now maintains Maine's theory in its leading characteristics of exclusive Agnation and *Patria Potestas*.

But the successful critic is not always equally successful in constructive work. Mr. McLennan, even before he had tumbled in partial ruin the foundations of Sir Henry Maine's theory, proceeded, in his "Primitive Marriage," to erect his own hypothesis, which has become as famous as its predecessor. Every student of sociology is now familiar with his evolutionary scheme of marriage and kinship: general promiscuity and attending destruction of female infants; thence scarcity of women, producing polyandry of the Nair type, unrecognizable paternity, female kinship, and polyandry of the Thibetan type; marriage by capture, producing exogamy and, ultimately, male kinship; finally, heterogeneous local tribes, with endogamous clans, survival of original capture in symbols of voluntary marriage, and the advance to monogamy. This view has been accepted, with some difference in detail, by Lubbock, and its starting-point in promiscuity has been arrived at independently by Bachofen, Morgan, and Lubbock. All these theorists of what may be called the "general promiscuity" group seem to start out with a preconceived theory, instead of with careful inductions from facts, and they ignore not only the data of economic and legal studies, but even those of biology. The McLennan theory, however, as the one most plausibly maintained, has been as vigorously, and we think as successfully, attacked as the Maine theory. Herbert Spencer, in the chapter already alluded to, took exception both to its starting-point, its logic of procedure, and its ultimate conclusions. He clearly pointed out the narrow range of polyandry; suggested probable causes other than promiscuity for the prevalence of female kinship, as well as economic reasons for a wide prevalence of monogamy as a primary social phenomenon; emphasized the improbability of early races depleting the stock of available wives, with one hand by destroying female infants, and with the other seeking to make the deficiency good by capture from equally depleted stocks of neighboring tribes; and, finally, showed several other causes working alongside of capture to produce the symbolism of more recent marriage.

What Mr. Spencer did in outline so admirably fourteen years ago has been attempted in a more enlarged treatment in the two works

now before us. Dr. Stareke and Mr. Wake occupy common ground as their starting-point, and do not differ widely in their conclusions, and both have made valuable contributions to the study of primitive society. Both repudiate, with Spencer, the sole explanation of female kinship in uncertain paternity growing out of promiscuity and polyandry. But the style of presentation is widely different. Mr. Wake has written a treatise as attractive in its forcible English and clear logical sequence, as Dr. Stareke's is oppressive by the reverse. The proof-reader has done Mr. Wake scant justice. Such slips as *Episcaste*, Talbot Wheeler for Talboys, and Vamberg for Vamberg, should not be found in so expensive a book. But literary and typographical merits or demerits do not principally concern us. These are epoch-making books: let us attend to their matter. We can merely give opinions; the books must be consulted for the various evidence cited in proof.

Dr. Stareke advances and well maintains the following opinions: (1) Marriage was not preceded by promiscuity, but social life begins in the partially agnatic family. (2) Hence agnation is not developed from female kinship, but has an earlier development. (3) Female kinship is not, in any large measure, due to uncertain paternity, but to mothers' groups in polygynous families. (4) The influence of locality has had much to do in assigning the child to the father or to the mother. Agricultural communities value workers, pastoral communities value cattle: in the former the father will bring in a husband for his daughter, in the latter he will sell her out for a price in cattle; the former will thus establish a female line of descent, through its daughters with alien husbands, while the latter will maintain the male line. (5) Polyandry has been of limited range, and originated in the patriarchal joint family of male descent. (6) The Levirate marriage of the Hebrews had no relation to polyandry, but grew out of the desire to have heirs to offer the funeral sacrifice. (7) But last and most original of all his theses—the relation of sex is by no means the central point and *raison d'être* of primitive marriage, since "it is not adapted to support the burden of social order." The contract idea is at the bottom of marriage, carrying with it the idea of legality, which, as it at first excluded the thought of a wife chosen from within the family circle, for whom no contract could be made, so, extending its prohibition to the clan of one

kindred, drove on to outside marriage, or exogamy.

On the last of the seven points made it will be well to linger, as this is, in Dr. Stareke's judgment, his distinct contribution to the discussion of early marriage. He says:

"We shall meet with no stronger distinction between animal and human existence than the use of fire. By its use the way was opened to man to obtain better nourishment; it then became possible to become a flesh-eating animal. The necessary preparation of food which resulted from this fact caused a division of labor between the sexes, which was unknown in the animal world. The man then became the regular provider of food, not, as in the case of animals, only occasionally, and it was the woman's part to prepare the prey. In this way she became indispensable to the man, not on account of an impulse which is suddenly aroused and as quickly disappears, but on account of a necessity which endures as long as life itself, namely, the need of food.

. . . A man connects himself with a woman in order that she might keep house for him, and to this may be added a second motive, that of obtaining children. His ownership of the children does not depend upon the fact that they were begotten by him, but upon the fact that he owns and supports their mother. . . . The interest felt in children must have exerted its influence on the form of marriage, since it furnishes a motive for polygamy which is not included in the need of a house-keeper. A man will be actuated by this motive in proportion to the number of available women, and to his power of purchasing and providing for them. It follows from the nature of things . . . that polygamy can never have been the normal condition of a tribe, since it would have involved the existence of twice as many women as men. Polygamy must necessarily have been restricted to the noblest, richest, and bravest members of the tribe. . . . The common household, in which each had a given work to do, and the common interest of obtaining and rearing children, were the foundations upon which marriage was originally built. And from the sympathy which inevitably springs from the interests which they have in common, that love is developed which effects a perfect and stable marriage."

Dr. Stareke's work barely precedes, in date, that of Mr. Wake, and does not deprive it of originality in its judgments, which were arrived at independently. Consequently, the general agreement of argument in the two books is most striking. All the positions which Dr. Stareke has taken against the McLennan theories are also forcibly taken by Mr. Wake, who fortifies his ground by abundant citations of examples as well as by most cogent reasoning. To go through his positions would be but to repeat what has already been said in reference to the earlier book; it will be sufficient to say that the one thesis peculiar to Dr. Stareke is the economic rather than emotional basis of marriage; Mr. Wake also has his own special contribution, which must be noted, at least in citation, as a distinct and valuable contribu-

tion to the discussion of kinship. He says:

"It is necessary to point out the distinction between *relationship* and *kinship*, a distinction which is usually lost sight of. The former of these terms is wider than the latter, as two persons may be related to each other, and yet not be of the same kin. Systems of kinship are based on the existence of a *special* relationship of persons to each other, as distinguished from the general relationship subsisting between such persons and other individuals. . . . While a man may be related generally through his father to one class of individuals, and through his mother to another class, he may be of kin only to one class or the other. This special relationship or kinship is accompanied by certain disabilities, particularly in connection with marriage, which it would not be possible in small communities to extend to all persons related to each other through both parents. Kinship, as distinguished from mere relationship, must be restricted, therefore, to one line of descent. It is evident that a child may be treated as specially related to either parent, and be reckoned of his or her kin to the exclusion of the kin of the other parent. There must be some reason for the preference in any particular case other than that based on paternity or maternity, seeing that uncultured peoples, as a rule, fully recognize the relationship of a child to both parents. As a fact, the kinship of the child depends on the conditions of the marital arrangement between its parents. Among the social restraints on promiscuity, one of the most powerful is that which arises from the rights of a woman's father or kindred. These rights extend not only to her conduct before marriage . . . but also to the marriage itself and its consequences. Thus the woman's father or her kin, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, claim her children as belonging to them, whether she remains with them after her marriage, or goes to reside among her husband's kin. . . . Whether descent shall be traced in the female or in the male line, depends on whether or not the woman's kin have given up their natural right to the children of the marriage. . . . If the husband does not give anything in return for his wife she continues a member of her own family group, and her children belong to their mother's kin. If, however, the husband pays a bride-price, she may have to give up her own family for that of her husband, and her offspring will belong to the latter."

It may be safely claimed that these two writers have done much toward a more scientific view of primitive marriage and kinship. By careful and patient collocation of facts over a wide area of social life, by as careful a study of the unsophisticated man under the influence of the instincts of self-preservation, sex, and order, they have laid a secure foundation for the cautious reasoning of which they both are masters. Starting from the decisions of so distinguished a biologist as Darwin, who will not concede promiscuity even among the quadrumana, we begin human life in the monogamous family, witness the phenomena of polyandry and polygamy thrown off and left by the wayside,—the one continuing the primary male descent, the other developing female kinship,—



and come through a varied world of marriage relations to the monogamous form of the modern world of Christian faith, in which love as a basis has not set aside the older basis of contract, but has reached beneath it and rooted it in the holiest sentiment of the race.

J. J. HALSEY.

#### RECENT FICTION.\*

Since no writer of English fiction at the present day can, except by the very midsummer madness of myopic criticism, be for a moment considered as ranking with the great masters of the last generation, it is evident that whatever interest there lies for us in contemporary novels must be sought for, not in their portrayal of character or situation upon the absolute terms of art, but in their points of incidental excellence, whether of style, theme, or tendency. This is a fact which is coming to be generally recognized; and most careful readers of the modern product frankly admit that what attracts them is either some quaintness or suggestiveness of language, the exposition of some social or intellectual problem, or the selection of some special field in which the writer is prepared to present interesting information, more or less obviously disguised in fictive garb. No one, for example, could seriously maintain the ingenious Mr. Howells, or the picturesque Mr. Crawford, or the solemn Mrs. Ward, to be a writer of great fiction in the sense in which Charles Dickens, or Sir Walter Scott, or George Eliot was such. But we are none the less attracted by the humor of the one, the novelty, or the earnest purpose, of the others. And to our mind the most prom-

ising field for the clever but mediocre novelist of the present uncreative age is that which we have taken Mr. Crawford to illustrate—the field of special and unfamiliar information. It was really the glimpse of Indian life, and not the vagaries of Ram Lal and his astral body, that set us all to reading “Mr. Isaacs”; it was the treatment of German life (in the students’ “corps” and the ancestral legend-haunted castle) that made “Greifenstein” attractive to us, and it is interest in the social and political condition of new Italy that makes us anxiously await another volume about the doings of the Saracinesca family. The substitution of mere knowledge for creative ability doubtless marks for us a decadent epoch in literature; but we may console ourselves by the reflection that there are, after all, enough really good novels left us from the past to fill up as large a share of the average existence as should reasonably be devoted to that sort of entertainment.

These remarks are not, however, designed to introduce any new novel by Mr. Crawford, for, strange to say, although it is at least six months since that familiar name has greeted us from the title-page of a volume just from the press, we have seen no reason to expect that its owner is about to bestow upon the public any fresh product of his industry. But they are suggested to us by the perusal of two recently published stories which deal with certain important phases of American history, and which illuminate, with singular clearness, the periods and the scenes which they represent. We refer to Mrs. Catherwood’s “The Story of Tonty” and Mrs. Austin’s “Standish of Standish,” two of the most conscientious and sympathetic studies in historical fiction that have come to us for examination in late years.

In “The Story of Tonty” Mrs. Catherwood has emphasized the success made by her “Romance of Dollard.” The story of La Salle and his lieutenant, beginning in Montreal, and ending, tragically enough, by the Mississippi shore, is one which offers many elements of romantic interest, and the author has told it in a strong and fascinating way. La Salle, quite as much as Tonty, is the historical hero of her work, and both figures stand out in very human distinctness. There is a great wealth of material for the novelist in these annals of New France and of the western territory, which was an unexplored wilderness two centuries ago, and Mrs. Catherwood has exhibited a remarkable talent for making use of it for purposes of fiction.

The character of Miles Standish has already

\* THE STORY OF TONTY. By Mary Hartwell Catherwood. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

STANDISH OF STANDISH. A Story of the Pilgrims. By Jane G. Austin. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE GREAT WAR SYNDICATE. By Frank R. Stockton. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

EXPIATION. By Octave Thanet. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons.

ALBRECHT. By Arlo Bates. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

JACK HORNER. A Novel. By Mary Spear Tiernan. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

PRINCE FORTUNATUS. A Novel. By William Black. New York: Harper & Brothers.

KIT AND KITTY. A Novel. By R. D. Blackmore. New York: Harper & Brothers.

GORI OR SHAMO. A Story of Three Songs. By G. G. A. Murray. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

MARIA: A South American Romance. By Jorge Isaacs. The Translation by Rollo Ogden. New York: Harper & Brothers.



been given a place in the gallery of historical figures made familiar to all of us by the art of the poet and the novelist; and yet Mrs. Austin, in her re-delineation of the famous Pilgrim, seems to have given him a clearer outline and a warmer coloring than he has had before in the imagination. But "Standish of Standish" is not the only historical figure in Mrs. Austin's romance. Bradford and Carver and Winslow are there as well, and many others of whom those curious in New England history have read in "Mourt's Relation" and other precious records of the past. Indeed, all of the figures in this story are historical in some degree, and what is more, they are not mere images with but the semblance of animation, not puppets worked by wires only too evident to the observer, but living men and women, our own ancestors again clothed in flesh and blood, and affording a very human contrast to the rather inhuman picture of the early colonists of Massachusetts Bay which has been so often thrust forward by well-meaning writers. In other words, out of comparatively meagre materials, the author has made a very vital narrative, and one which must appeal strongly to every man with New England blood in his veins. To those "dear ones whose memory we cherish so lovingly, and in the sober reality of whose lives lies a charm no romance can ever reach," this book is a worthy tribute, and, we trust, a lasting monument.

Mr. Stockton's story of "The Great War Syndicate" is a variation upon a well-worn theme. War is declared between Great Britain and the United States, and our government does not know how to meet the enemy, being entirely unprepared for anything of the sort. At this point a syndicate of capitalists comes forward, offers to carry on the war for the government, and makes a contract to that effect. Victory is speedily assured us, for the syndicate controls a secret force more suggestive of the Keely motor than of anything else, and quite as deadly as the "vril" of "The Coming Race." Armed with this mysterious power, the war-ships of the syndicate sail forth, and speedily reduce England to subjection. The warfare described by Mr. Stockton is unparalleled by anything in recorded history, for the reason that it is waged from beginning to end without loss of life. At least, there is only one life lost, and that is by accident. But if Mr. Stockton has no tale of murder grim and great to tell us, he blows up a few vessels and fortified places by means of his new force, and

contrives to make his story generally exciting.

The reputation made by Miss French (we believe that the personality of the lady who signs herself "Octave Thanet" is now an open secret) as a writer of realistic sketches of life in the Southwest is more than confirmed by her story of "Expiation," her first full-fledged novel. The work is sustained in interest, strong and virile enough to warrant the use of a masculine *nom de guerre*. We should no more suspect it, from internal evidence, to be the work of a woman than we suspected that to be the case with the author of "Where the Battle was Fought." "Expiation" is a story of Arkansas in the days of the guerrillas and the closing months of the late war. There is a little more of the element of dialect than we can accept with unalloyed pleasure, but this deepens the general impression of faithfulness to fact which is the net result of the perusal of this remarkable story. It is in something more than the hackneyed sense of the terms that we may speak of the characters in this story as well drawn and vital, of the situations as interesting, and of the scenes as graphically described. And the reflective or contemplative passages of the book have the charm of a poetic instinct and the grace of a finished style.

It is undoubtedly true, as Mr. Arlo Bates confesses, that without the Freiherr de la Motte Fouqué's "Undine" for a precedent, the story of "Albrecht" would never have been conceived. But it is equally true that the story is a charming and graceful piece of imaginative work, showing us, among other things, that realism does not yet have everything its own way with our novelists. In Mr. Bates's story the soulless mortal is a man, not a woman, a kobold, not an undine, and his marriage with the maiden of his choice, in furnishing him with a soul, endangers that of his wife. But in the end the powers of darkness are subdued. The scene of the romance is fittingly placed in the Black Forest, at the time of Karl the Great.

The city of Richmond, at the time of our own civil war, is chosen for the scene of "Jack Horner." "Human blood at that time," says the writer, "was of a splendid red color, as a hundred fields could testify. It had not yet become the languid lukewarm tide which evolves the pale emotions of a modern American novel." No great amount of blood is made to flow by the author of this story, although she has chosen to deal with the war period, but we are left in little doubt as to the nature of the fluid that

courses through the arteries of the principal characters. They are all very genuine men and women, with the exception of the hero *par excellence*, and he is a very genuine baby. In fact, this modern edition of the famous nursery hero is about as adorable a bit of infant humanity as is often found in a novel, to say nothing of the cold actual world. But he could not have the story all to himself, and so he is surrounded by a number of pleasant people, whose lives, during those trying years of siege, come to be strangely interesting to us, so gracefully is their story told. The novel is one whose perusal will leave no feeling of regret for a wasted hour.

Mr. William Black has so pleasant a way of telling a story, and is so beguiling a chronicler of the small-talk of the club and the drawing-room, that we are apt to forget, until we come to reflect upon it after the book is closed, how uninteresting the story is in itself, and how trivial the conversation of which it largely consists. "Prince Fortunatus" is an example of the average novel of Mr. Black's recent years. It makes us acquainted with a lot of clever and generally well-behaved people, having various degrees of interest in one another, and never plays upon our emotions beyond the point of gentle and agreeable stimulation. The hero, in the present case, is a singer of comic opera, and the romance of his life is threefold—that is to say, he is in love, more or less simultaneously, with three women. Probably the extremely idiotic game of poker which he is described as playing on one occasion, when in a peculiarly reckless mood, may be accounted for by the distraction incident upon such a state of mind and heart as is implied in an affection thus divided. In the end, he marries one of the three—he could not do more, not being a merman—and, as it can make little difference to the reader which of the three it is, the story may be said to end happily.

The muse of all perversity seems to preside over the naming of Mr. Blackmore's latest stories and of their characters, male and female. "Kit and Kitty" is sufficiently *bizarre* as a title for a serious novel, and it is peopled by such persons as Tabby Tapscott, Tony Tonks, and Donovan (familiarily known as "Downy") Bulwrag. But Mr. Blackmore always tells a story genially, and the season has brought few as well worth attention as this. Kit is a promising young market-gardener, and Kitty is the maiden whom he loves. Just at the proper time when Kit's love affairs are running a trifle

too smoothly to promise much interest, Kitty is kidnapped by the ingenious Downy Bulwrag, and the story takes a new lease of life. When it has been expanded to a suitable length, she is restored to his arms, and all ends happily. The lore of the gardener forms a substantial element in the narrative, and who, if not Mr. Blackmore, should be capable of expounding it? If we are to have no more "Lorna Doones" and "Alice Lorraines," we should at least not be ungrateful for such gentler idyls as this.

"Gobi or Shamo," further described upon the title-page as "A Story of Three Songs," is such a work of fiction as Mr. Rider Haggard and Mr. Andrew Lang might have written, had they chosen to collaborate in such a task. The story of the isolated Greek city, existing unknown all these years in the highlands of Central Asia, embodies just such an imaginative idea as that of "King Solomon's Mines," and a great deal of the incident and description is just what might have been expected of the ripe classical scholarship of the author of "Letters to Dead Authors." The gentleman who has successfully combined the diverse gifts of these two writers is Professor G. G. A. Murray, who occupies the chair of Greek in the University of Glasgow. The story which he has produced may be described as faulty in construction, but amazingly clever in detailed execution. We have not been able to discover what is meant by the mention of "three songs" in the title; as for the "Gobi or Shamo" part of it, that is cleared up by a quotation from Cornwell's "Geography"—"the great desert of Gobi or Shamo." The Greek city of which there is question in the work is represented as a relic of the invasion of the Greeks under Alexander the Great, and the story of its re-discovery by two or three modern Englishmen is one of the most fascinating narratives that recent fiction has provided.

The literature of Spanish America, as Mr. Thomas A. Janvier points out in his brief but admirable introduction to Mr. Rollo Ogden's translation of "María: A South American Romance," is both rich and ancient. A *catalogue raisonné* of the books published in Mexico alone, and before the year 1600, includes one hundred and sixteen titles, and the literary production of Mexico and the other Spanish-American countries has certainly kept pace since then with that of the English-speaking half of the continent. Señor Jorge Isaacs, the author of the story now translated, is a Columbian, and his fame among Spanish-Americans

is probably as great as that of Mr. Howells among Americans who speak English; so that the story was well worth translating, and Mr. Ogden appears to have done the work conscientiously. As a story, it can make little appeal to our Anglo-Saxon and somewhat jaded appetites. It is suggestive of such French romantic idyls as "Atala" and "Paul et Virginie," and neither of these stories ever excited more than a languid literary interest in English readers. But it is pretty, pathetic, and graceful, and it gives a faithful picture of refined country life in a South American republic, so that it adds materially to our vital knowledge of the world and its peoples.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

#### BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

PROFESSOR Francis A. Walker has twice recast his admirable text-book of political economy, published in 1883. In 1886 he reduced it to a "Briefer Course," better adapted by its size to collegiate work. He now gives us his "Elementary Course" (Holt), in something over three hundred pages, for high schools. The author says: "It is no primer of political economy which is here offered, but a substantial course of study in this vitally important subject." He might have added that it is no mere digest of the larger books, but a fresh presentation of the subject, and anyone who has had experience with the larger works will readily concede that this is the best. The whole subject is admirably handled. The separate applications of economic principles of the larger works have here been incorporated into the general treatment with good results. A trait that much commends Professor Walker as a thinker to thinking men is his fearlessness in modifying his opinions as he grows in knowledge, and he has not been afraid to confess to it so recently as the April issue of the "Quarterly Journal of Economics." So, in the volume under consideration, there are modifications, both by addition and omission, which in our judgment improve its quality as an educational text-book. Of course, Professor Walker's large recognition of the *entrepreneur* is found here, as well as in his earlier works, and here also "substitution of commodities" as affecting supply, and the failure of substitution as affecting labor supply, get due recognition. The chapter on "Protection and Free Trade" handles that living question carefully and without prejudice, although we think the writer is at his very best on that subject in the article on "Protection and Protectionists" in the "Quarterly Journal of Economics" for April, 1890, where the judicial attitude of mind is admirable. We do not intend to disparage the two earlier books when we say we believe this volume will become the college text-book, at least until the day when someone shall

take Professor Folwell's suggestion and begin the economic text-book with consumption, because "the best place to begin anything is at the beginning, and it is a mere truism that the wants and desires of men are the spring and motive of industrial activity."

LAFCADIO HEARN is an alert and sympathetic observer, and possesses in a marked degree the faculty of giving to his impressions their exact word values. To read his "Two Years in the French West Indies" (Harper) is to see the French West Indies pretty much as he himself saw them — through a pleasing, poetical, *couleur-de-rose* haze, yet truthfully enough as to general features. We incline to the belief that a visit to Martinique, for example, after reading Mr. Hearn's Martinique studies, would be almost as disenchanting as a visit to Venice after contemplating Turner's glowing canvases. Still, we freely forgive author and painter for glorifying the truth; and few of us would care to exchange Turner for Canaletto, or Mr. Hearn for a writer with a more statistical bent. The tropic luxuriance of the regions described by our author is happily reflected in his style, though at times his pen sheds colors and superlatives a thought too freely. There is a smack of the garish splendor of the pantomime in this, for instance: "High carmine cliffs and rocks outlying in a green sea, which lashes their bases with a foam of gold." But Mr. Hearn expresses himself, in general, in a very delightful way, and his style is not one to be adjusted to the Procrustean bed of strict academic propriety. The book abounds in charming bits of word-painting and characterization; and the whole is tinged with a sentiment and poetic charm that will appeal to lovers of good literature. The value of the work is enhanced by its profuse illustrations, which speak well for both artist and artisan. Some of the cuts are really admirable for precision of line and delicate gradation of tone.

TO THOSE impatiently waiting for Mr. Stanley's book — now announced by the publishers as soon to appear, — Mr. Scott Keltie's "Story of Emin's Rescue as told in Stanley's Letters" (Harper) is a welcome foretaste. These letters have been thus edited in response to a demand for a cheap publication to satisfy the public craving for news about the land and the man now sharing the largest portion of the world's curiosity. Those who did not read these letters as they originally appeared in the daily papers will here meet afresh that tremendous rush of personal energy which always carries men off their feet when Stanley appears, and will also find much interesting addition to their previous information about the lake region of central Africa. A brief sketch of Emin, and of the events which led up to the rescue expedition, is prefixed to the letters. The unhappy controversy which has sprung up over the later conduct of Emin is here foreshadowed, although there is due recognition of the heroism



which can never be obscured by later errors of judgment growing out of a large heart and a noble devotion to humanity. When the truth is all told, Emin Bey will be gratefully remembered by mankind as one who, if perchance he shared some of the quixotic tendencies of his old captain, Gordon, has with it also that which will enroll both of these soldiers of fortune high among the benefactors of the race. The book would have gained by the inclusion of Stanley's latest letters.

SOME two years ago, the octogenarian novelist and *littérateur*, Mr. Thomas Adolphus Trollope, and the veteran academician, Mr. W. P. Frith, each published a volume of personal reminiscences. Both volumes were received with generous applause by the public, and in both cases there was a hearty call for more. Mr. Frith responded to this call, not long ago, with a second volume no less interesting than the first, and Mr. Trollope has now likewise responded with an equally charming sequel to his earlier volume. The second installment of "What I Remember" (Harper) is mostly devoted to recollections of the past quarter of a century, although the writer does not hesitate to put in matters of earlier date when they occur to him. For the past twenty-five years he has lived almost continuously in Italy, for a while in the neighborhood of Florence, and afterwards at Rome. He has been steadily occupied with literary work during this period, and has been thrown into contact with a great many charming people. The new volume, like the other, is a storehouse of anecdote and pleasantly-related incident, all genial in the highest degree. As a running commentary upon the great events of modern Italian history, and as a picture of the refined society of the Italian capitals, the new volume is of the most interesting description.

DR. RICHARD GARNETT certainly exhibited a self-confidence worthy of his subject in venturing to write a short "Life of John Milton" (London: Walter Scott) so soon after Mark Pattison's deeply-conceived and masterly book on the same subject. Yet the admirer of Pattison must admit that Dr. Garnett has justified himself. His book was worth writing, for it is worth reading. Less deeply meditated, less terse, less precise than its predecessor, the present volume is nevertheless an elegant bit of work. It contains a good deal of material not to be found in Pattison; notably an excellent bibliography covering thirty-nine pages, and representing the cream of the Miltoniana in the British museum. Touching one mooted point, Dr. Garnett takes issue successfully with Pattison, who thinks it a pity that Milton should have given up "to party what was meant for mankind." On the other hand, the present biographer shows, we think conclusively, that Milton would have been false, not only to his country and to his God, but to himself, had he not embarked upon that "troubled sea of noises and hoarse disputes." Dr. Garnett contends, moreover, very

convincingly, that the composition of the prose works was in several ways no bad course of training for the future author of "Paradise Lost."

IN reviewing Mr. Stanley Lane-Poole's "Story of Turkey," we criticized the book as failing to make anything more than a mere string of adventures of Turkish history. This writer has now found a more congenial field in his "Story of the Barbary Corsairs" (Putnam), which is necessarily limited to a tale of adventure. In this restricted sphere, Mr. Lane-Poole has done admirably, and has produced the most entertaining volume of the "Story of the Nations" series. There is a flavor of the sea about the narrative, and the style of the writer has in it the dash and *verve* of the rovers it represents. Old Barbarossa here lives again in all his large-minded rascality; the Knights of St. John again win deathless laurels; and the Mediterranean again whitens with innumerable sails, and glitters with the armor of contending heroes. The darker side, too, is here, and the terrible life of the galley-slave is pictured in a most valuable chapter. Proper credit is given to the United States for the initial step toward suppressing the mere handful of impudent pirates who for two centuries had bullied all Europe. In this portion, the writer has had the assistance of Lieutenant J. D. J. Kelley, of the United States navy. The last chapter, on the French acquisition of Algeria, is written with a somewhat too caustic pen, as the facts would speak for themselves, without added denunciation.

WHATEVER may be Mr. A. P. Russell's other gifts, his latest work, "In a Club Corner" (Houghton), shows that he has what Carlyle called "a genius for making excerpts." In this compact little volume of 328 pages, he gives us an agreeable *mélange* of wit, wisdom, humor, and anecdote, culled during a course of widely-extended and well-selected reading. For the convenience of the reader, he has arranged his material under general heads, with marginal summary; and "scrappiness" is avoided by stitching the whole together with a thread of personal comment and reflection. The selections are fresher than one usually finds in such compilations, and the book, besides being very readable, will prove an excellent means of reference. Mr. Russell has seen fit to call his work a "monologue" — a term not very apposite where the author's role is chiefly that of *raconteur*. Be that as it may, "In a Club Corner" is a book to be grateful for under any title. Mr. Russell will be pleasantly remembered as the author of "A Club of One," which was received with much favor three years ago; and the present volume is marked by the variety of matter and general air of refinement that characterized its predecessor.

AN attractive volume entitled "On the Wing through Europe" (Welch, Fracker & Co.) comprises a series of newspaper letters written from abroad by Francis C. Sessions. The present edi-



tion is the third, and the author, in his introduction, expresses his surprise that his hasty jottings should have been so well received — and we are inclined to agree with him. Mr. Sessions's tour did not take him off the beaten track, and what he saw in London, Paris, Rome, etc., is what no traveller with the usual complement of eyes could have helped seeing. His comments are, in general, as trite as his descriptions. One scarcely needs, for instance, to be told of Westminster Abbey, "Here indeed one may spend a day with great interest"; or of the Coliseum that, "Here thousands of the earlier Christians suffered martyrdom by being thrown into the arena, to be torn and devoured by wild beasts." Mr. Sessions's style, however, is not without originality. He tells us that "Scarcely a foot of Italian soil is other than a pilgrimage," and that he and his friends enjoyed the sea breeze in Venice "with a zeal unequalled since we left home." The illustrations in the book are well chosen and well executed.

THE volume entitled "Stories of New France" (Lothrop), by Agnes M. Machar and Thomas G. Marquis, will be of interest to Americans chiefly because it presents in historical form what is already familiar in prose and poetical romance. The "Stories" begin with a chapter on "How New France was Found," and close with the "Great Siege of Quebec," thus covering a period from the earliest knowledge of America to the day when Montcalm and Wolfe, in 1759, met on the plains of Abraham. The hero of a Canadian Thermopylae, Daulac, has already been introduced to us by Mrs. Catherwood in her "Romance of Dollard," and the same author's "Story of Tonty," tells also the story of Robert de La Salle. Every school girl will feel an impulse to read the story of the Acadian exiles, in order to find out more, if possible, about "Evangeline," and thus the best purposes of the book will be served by leading the reader one step nearer to the great storehouse of Canadian history, Francis Parkman. The authors should consider their work not in vain if it contributes a little toward this end.

UNDER the titles, "Helps for Daily Living" and "The Signs of the Times," two volumes have been recently published by George H. Ellis, containing twenty-two sermons by the Rev. Minot J. Savage, the well-known Unitarian divine; and we take pleasure in saying that these sermons are well worth putting in type. A degree of appositeness is given to the contents of each book by selecting for it discourses of the same general trend as to subject matter and intent. The first named contains much strong sense and straight thinking on practical subjects, and will be well received irrespective of the reader's particular "doxy." In "The Signs of the Times," however, Mr. Savage gets upon debatable ground, and treats such subjects as "Break-up of the Old Orthodoxy," "Ingersollism," etc., with a frankness that will, we are afraid, displease many readers.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following list includes all books received by THE DIAL during the month of April, 1890.]

### ART AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

**History of Art in Sardinia, Judea, Syria, and Asia Minor.** From the French of Georges Perrot and Charles Chipiez. Translated and Edited by I. Gonino. With 416 Engravings and 8 Steel and Colored Plates. 2 vols. 4to. A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$14.50.

**The Problem of the Northmen.** A Letter to Judge Daly, President of the American Geographical Society. By Eben Norton Horsford. Second Edition. Illustrated. 4to, pp. 23. Paper. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.00.

### HISTORY.

**History of the United States of America, under the Constitution.** By James Shouler. In 4 vols. 8vo. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$9.00.

**A Short History of Mexico.** By Arthur Howard Noll. 16mo, pp. 294. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.00.

**English Lands, Letters, and Kings.** Part II., from Elizabeth to Anne. By Donald G. Mitchell. 12mo, pp. 347. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.

**Palestine.** By Major C. R. Conder, D.C.L., R.E. Illustrated. 16mo, pp. 207. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.25.

**A Short History of the Roman People.** By William F. Allen. 16mo, pp. 370. Ginn & Co. \$1.10.

### BIOGRAPHY.

**Dictionary of National Biography.** Edited by Leslie Stephen and Sidney Lee. In about 50 vols. Vol. XXII., Glover-Gravet. Large 8vo, pp. 449. Gilt top. Uncut. Macmillan & Co. \$3.75.

**History of the Girtys.** Being a Concise Account of the Girty Brothers, and of the Part Taken by Them in Lord Dunmore's War, etc. By Consul Willshire Butterfield, author of "The Expedition Against Sandusky under Col. William Crawford." Large 8vo, pp. 426. Robert Clarke & Co. \$3.50.

**Asa Turner and His Times.** By George F. Magoun, D.D. With an Introduction by A. H. Clapp, D.D. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 345. Congregational and S. S. Publishing Society. \$1.50.

**The Wife of the First Consul.** By Hubert de Saint-Amand. Translated by Thomas Sergeant Perry. With Portrait. 12mo, pp. 357. Chas. Scribner's Sons. \$1.25.

**Memorial to Robert Browning.** Under the Auspices of the Browning Society of Boston. King's Chapel, Tuesday, January 28, 1890. 8vo, pp. 64. Paper. Tied. Printed for the Society. \$1.00.

### NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENCE.

**Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited during the Voyage around the World of H. M. S. "Beagle."** By Charles Darwin, M.A., F.R.S. New Edition. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 531. Uncut. D. Appleton & Co. \$5.00.

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**The Physical Properties of Gases.** By Arthur L. Kimball. 16mo, pp. 238. "Riverside Science Series." Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.

### LITERARY MISCELLANY.

**The Writings of George Washington.** Collected and Edited by Worthington Chauncey Ford. In 14 volumes. Vol. VI., 1777-1778. Royal 8vo, pp. 511. Gilt top. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.00.

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#### REFERENCE.

The Annual American Catalogue, 1899. Being the Full Titles, with Descriptive Notes, of all Books Recorded in the "Publishers' Weekly," 1889. Large 8vo, pp. 262. Half-leather. Office of "Publishers' Weekly." \$3.50.

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